

**AGING IN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING**

Date: May 9, 2023
9:30 am to 11:30 am

“Debrief for Smart Homes-Smarter Care Public Forum”

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 9:30AM

Commissioners In Attendance: Wayne Berman (co-chair), Betsy Carrier (co-chair), Marsha Weber, Laurie Pross, Joyce Dubow, Mona Grieser, Mary Sweeney, David Engel, Barbara Selter, Bob Levy, Austin Heyman

Staff: Pazit Aviv, MoCo; Gemmena Murchison, MoCo;

Guests: Sara Fought, Jewish Council for the Aging.

Opening Remarks from the Co-Chair: Wayne and Betsy welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda that featured a debrief of the recent “Smart Homes – Smarter Care” Public Forum.

Approval of the Minutes: The April 11, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

DEBRIEF AND DISCUSSIONS:

After some brief background remarks on the Public Forum and the very positive reviews of the event, Wayne led a discussion that addressed the following aspects of the Forum.

- Organization
- Content
- Lessons Learned
- Key Take-aways and Lessons Learned
- Potential Action Items and Next Steps for the AIC
- Possible Policy and Budget Advocacy

As a result of a very lively discussion, the following list of comments and action ideas were offered by the Committee:

- A comment was made that it would have been good to have some handouts for people when they entered the room. It was not clear as to what types of handouts might have been useful, other than the agenda, that was handed out.
- A lot of information was presented, and it was hard to absorb all that information.
- It was suggested that AIC prepare a worksheet on the results of the Forum, similar to the H & W factsheets.
- Produce a sheet to refer people where to turn regarding technology.
- Point people to sources of trusted information, like CAST, AARP, MoCo, etc.
- Use the Senior Helpline from JCA to disseminate information and support assistance on technology.
- Senior Planet is important regarding Tele-medicine.
- Support Intergenerational programs thru MCPS and others – an opportunity with Rec Centers, Libraries, public spaces. Work with non-profits to start.

- Opportunity with Villages, Go to those that attended the Forum
- The problem of recruiting and how tech can help reduce the number of in-person care givers to help gain more care opportunities.
- Encourage Cluster Care in institutions and private home (use of tech for in-home care). Helps to address shortage of health care workers.
- Opportunity for Remote Care Tech can help make it more efficient for people with routine needs. A pilot program needs to be more flushed out. Talk to Lorraine Driscoll of MoCo Caregiving program. Talk to GROWS – maybe a survey thru their members.
- Getting information from public caregivers, e.g., Holy Cross PACE program. Affects readmissions and can help with staff shortages.
- Incentive when people are going thru program for caregivers.
- People with chronic issues are where tech can be helpful.
- Care givers in the CNA's can be trained in basic technology.
- See American Muslim senior society. Care Plus Home Health and Advanced Home Health.
- Need to know and better understand what is being done across the County regarding technology. This will enable the CoA to be in a better position for advocacy and to understand what the current environment is really like. Work with GROWS, Holy Cross, etc.
- Advocate for Tech in Design for Life Grants.
- Good resources – Center for Successful Aging (in MedStar Olney), Transitional Care Departments in Hospitals. The following resources were suggested:
 1. Center for successful Aging: Deanna Cho 301-570-7426 and Deanna.y.cho@medstar.net and 2.
 2. Manager of Transitional Care Department at Suburban Hospital: Margie Hackett 301-896-6560 or Margie.Hackett@jhmi.edu

BUSINESS MEETING:

Following the discussion of follow-up ideas on technology, a similar, but shorter, discussion was held on Universal Design, as a follow-up to the April AIC meeting. This discussion offered the following potential AIC actions:

- Think about what the very basic elements (5 or 6 things to start) are and build upon them. Advocate to the County for just the basics.
- Can we do a resource fact sheet for the basic Universal Design?
- As this is not for just older adults, Work with the Commission on Disabilities
- Meet with Habitat and Rebuilding Together to understand how they plan to use the grant money. Invite them to an AIC meeting in the fall.
- Identify and city or county outside MoCo to see what has been done. See Scott Pruitt.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The recent passing of Nanine Meikeljohn, former Commissioner, was recognized. Further information on any memorial service will be forthcoming.
- Pazit mentioned Peter Flandrau will now be taking Shawn Brennan's place for the CoA.
- Mary suggested that the AIC get back to doing something on Housing Vouchers. This includes, collecting some anecdotal information on what is going on in HOC and identifying the problems. The AIC should invite HOC Exec Director to a meeting in the fall.

No other business to report.

UPCOMING MEETING: The next AIC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12 at 9:30 am. The planned focus of this business meeting will be Affordable Housing and Homelessness.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Motion and seconded to adjourn meeting at 11:15 am